



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/446,326	12/20/1999	Reiner Delp	MERCK 2038	2158
7590	12/01/2004		EXAMINER	
Millen White Zelano & Branigan Arlington Courthouse Plaza I Suite 1400 2200 Clarendon Boulevard Arlington, VA 22201			DICUS, TAMRA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1774	
DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

S, C

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/446,326	DELP ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Tamra L. Dicus	1774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20, 22-30 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

The 112 rejection is withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the particle structure". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1 - 20, and 22-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,422,383 to Takahashi et al. as previously set forth in the Office Action of April 21, 2004.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. To instant claim 5, Takahashi teaches all elements as previously set forth, including the particle size. The polymer is retained in the plastic because the polymer is a composite comprising the same polymer and particles as claimed. See again, col. 2, lines 25-36. To instant claim 8, the light-sensitive pigment/colorant is also provided, as previously set forth at col. 4, lines 44-65.

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed 10-21-04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant alleges that Takahashi does not teach an absorber material comprising a laser-markable polymer where the polymer is in any form and not irregular-shaped micromilled particles. The Applicant has not persuasively argued because Takahashi teaches all elements of the claimed invention. The Applicant may not have considered the teachings of Takahashi where the reference explicitly teaches the following at col. 2, lines 32-36:

Laser beam absorbing, thermosetting resin composition according to the present invention contains a resin, and composite particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1-50 .mu.m, preferably 0.5-30 .mu.m, dispersed in the resin. Each of the composite particles includes a particulate, laser beam absorbing inorganic substance (herein after referred to as LB absorber), and a colorant physically bonded substantially directly to the LB absorber and capable of discoloring upon being heated at a temperature of 250.degree. C. or more. The weight ratio of the colorant to the LB absorber should be in the range of 1:99 to 50:50, preferably 5:95 to 40:60. The shape of the composite particles is not specifically limited and may be spherical or any other forms.

Thus, when the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or are produced by identical or a substantially identical processes, a *prima facie* case of either anticipation of obviousness will be considered to have been established over functional limitations that stem from the claimed structure. *In re Best*, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977), *In re Spada*, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 ( Fed. Cir. 1990). The *prima facie* case can be rebutted by evidence showing that the prior art products do not necessarily posses the characteristics of the claimed products. *In re Best*, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977). As previously set forth, Takahashi teaches the resin is milled and the same plastic materials are used. A *prima facie* case has been established, and therefore the burden shifts to the Applicant to submit additional objective evidence of nonobviousness, such as comparative test data showing that the claimed

invention possesses improved properties not expected by the prior art. Until the Applicant has convincingly argued or has provided evidence to the contrary, the rejections are maintained.

*Conclusion*

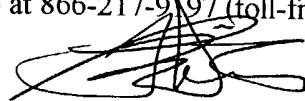
5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamra L. Dicus whose telephone number is 571-272-1519. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-4:30 p.m., alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tamra L. Dicus  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1774

11/24/04



RENA DYE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

A.U.1774

11/24/04